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**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OF ATKINSON**



**Receipts, Expenditures and Re-
ports of the Town Officers, for
the Year Ending Feb. 15, 1909.**

Amesbury Daily News Job Print.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY**

Annual Reports

OF THE

**SELECTMEN, COLLECTOR, TREASURER,
AUDITORS, TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC
LIBRARY and SCHOOL BOARD**

OF THE

Town of Atkinson, N. H.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1909

TOGETHER WITH

**THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1908 AS
PREPARED BY THE TOWN CLERK and a
CATALOGUE OF BOOKS ADDED
TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

AMESBURY, MASS.
AMESBURY DAILY NEWS PRINT,
1909

Selectmen's Report

Valuation of resident real estate.....	\$187,229 00
" non resident real estate..	51,033 00
Number of Horses, non-resident, 1....	65 00
" Cows " 8....	226 00
" Oxen " 8....	520 00
" Neat Stock " 2....	40 00
" Hogs " 3....	50 00
" Sheep " 32....	160 00
" Horses resident, 129.....	11,135 00
" Cows " 355.....	10,407 00
" Oxen " 2.....	135 00
" Neat Stock " 79.....	1,188 00
" Hogs " 8.....	100 00
" Polls 105.....	10,500 00
" Saw Mills 2.....	1,800 00
" Canning Factory 1.....	500 00
" Fowls 477.....	356 00
Carriages.....	725 00
Money at Interest.....	9,000 00
Stock in Trade, resident.....	1,990 00
" " non resident.....	3,676 00
Electric Power line, non resident.....	5,000 00
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\$295,826 00	

On which the Selectmen have assessed
to following amounts :

State Tax.....	\$ 520 00
County Tax.....	783 47

Town Charges.....	400 00
School Tax by law.....	780 00
" " vote.....	1,050 00
Repairs on School houses.....	149 00
Highways 30c on \$100 as per vote....	887 48
Permanent roads by vote.....	300 00
" " to secure State aid..	146 00
Public Library by law.....	31 20
" for Improvements....	100 00
Maintainance of Poor.....	100 00
Cemetery.....	50 00
Removing Brown tail moths for 1908.	140 89
Discount at 6 per cent. on taxes.....	326 28
Overlay	4 29
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	\$5768 61

The Selectmen have given orders on the Treasurer
as follows:

School Board on account of Schools..	1,830 00
" Special appropriation for repairs	149 00
School supplies.....	97 84
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	\$2,076 84

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Library Trustees.....	\$ 80 00
Repairs, Etc., Taylor Goodwin Co.,	
Mdse.....	6 75
John K. Mason, labor.....	11 08
Hanscon Hardware Co., Mdse...	6 82
John K. Mason.....	1 25
Albert Truax, labor.....	5 85
George E. Gilbert, labor.....	8 00
Blake & Co., labor.....	95
Fred P. Wright, labor.....	6 08
J. H. Smith, labor.....	5 75
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\$132 53

TOWN AID.

S. Arthur Steele.....	100 00
Daniel Card, board at County Farm..	22 50
Howard Hall, groceries.....	20 00
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	\$142 50

WILLIAM C. TODD CEMETERY FUND.

George P. Dow, care of lot.....	3 00
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SARAH E. KNIGHT CEMETERY FUND

John H. Smith, care of lot.....	2 00
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HIGHWAYS AND CULVERTS.

B. O. Wood, Surveyor Districts, No.	
8, 9.....	140 00
Cyrus F. Noyes, Surveyor District, No.	
1	94 65
Cyrus F. Noyes, Surveyor Culverts,	
District No. 1,.....	1 50
Fred P. Wright, Surveyor District No.	
4,	60 25
Fred P. Wright, Surveyor Culverts,	
District No. 4,.....	7 50
Elmer E. Conley, Surveyor Districts	
Nos. 6-7,.....	132 09
Elmer E. Conley, Surveyor Culverts,	
Districts Nos. 6-7	13 25
Walter B. Lang, Surveyor Districts	
Nos. 2-3,.....	75 57
Walter B. Lang, Surveyor Culverts,	
Districts Nos. 2-3.....	67 60
Albert Little, Surveyor District No.	
5..	34 00

\$626 41

SNOW BILLS.

Fred P. Wright, Surveyor District No.	
4,	\$ 16
Walter B. Lang, Surveyor Districts	
Nos. 2-3,	1 05
	<hr/>
	\$1 21

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Cyrus F. Noyes, water trough year	
1908-1909	\$ 3 00
Samuel B. Mason, water trough year	
1908-1909	3 00
Soldiers' Exemption,	51 97
George P. Gove, Poll tax 1906,	1 80
John F. Doyle, Poll tax 1907,	1 80
Elmer W. Griffin, Poll tax 1907,	1 80
William S. Stevens, Poll tax 1907,	1 80
	<hr/>
	\$65 17

INTEREST MONEY

Verta A. Smith, interest on note	\$40 00
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BROWNTAIL MOTH TRIMMING

Carlisle B. Mason, spring of 1908.....	\$120 76
Roy E. Murdock, " "	20 13
Arthur A. Sultaire, " 1909.....	144 00
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	\$284 89

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

George A. Page for speaker	\$10 00
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MISCELLANEOUS

Edson C. Eastman, blank order and receipt book	\$ 2 94
Everett H. Poor, services as ballot inspector 1906	2 00
Amesbury Pub. Co., town reports	27 00
John C. Cogswell, repairing Road Machine	5 00
Hanscom Hardware Co., parts Road Machine	11 25
Chase Bros., auction bills	1 50
David L. Chute, cutting trees at old pound	3 00
John H. Smith, note with interest	1010 00
Hanscom Hardware Co., drain pipe as per bill	31 50
Hanscom Hardware Co., drain pipe as per bill	9 00
Jay M. Goodrich, care of hall	9 00
“ for Atkinson Grange, wood and oil	4 50
Elmer S. Atwood, stone at grave of Col. Asa Page	15 00
Benn. R. Heald, services as ballot clerk 1908	2 00
John H. Smith, paid J. Scammon legal advice	1 00
John H. Smith, labor on Road Machine “ expense to Exeter Tax Com.	3 00 1 25
John H. Smith, expense to Newburyport for library	1 25
John H. Smith, expense to Brentwood with Daniel Card	3 20
John H. Smith, postage, telephone, etc .	2 10
Jay W. Stickney, services as ballot inspector 1908	2 00

Abner C. Akerly, services as ballot clerk 1908	2 00
Jay M. Goodrich, distributing moth no- tices	3 22
George A. Page, Postage, etc.	2 55
Everett H. Poor, services as ballot in- specter 1908	2 00
Herman Noyes, rent of hall one year ...	30 00
John H. Smith, items as per bill.	5 50
“ labor in cemetery.	3 00
Fred H. Knight “ “	3 40
Arthur Dow, “ “	2 88
George E. Gilbert “ “	1 46
Joseph Fountain “ “	1 32
L. B. Merritt “ “	1 29
W. B. Lang “ “	5 39
Arthur A. Sultaire, trimming moths in cemetery	4 00
<hr/> — — 1215 50	

TOWN OFFICERS

John K. Mason, notifying dog owners ..	\$6 50
Lyman W. Cole, services as supervisor two years.	10 00
B. O. Wood, services as supervisor two years.	10 00
Jay M. Goodrich, services as Moderator 1907-8.	6 00
W. B. Lang, services as Truant officer. .	3 00
Jay M. Goodrich, “ Selectman.	25 00
George A. Page, “ Town Treasur'r	15 00
“ “ Town Clerk ...	15 00
“ “ School Treasu'r	8 00
Walter S. Noyes, “ Selectman.	25 00
John H. Smith, “ “	45 00

Samuel B. Mason, service, Tax Collector	56 00	
“ “ District Clerk .	1 00	
	<hr/>	225 50

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES

State tax	\$520 00	
County tax	783 47	
	<hr/>	1303 47

RECAPITULATION

Amount in Collector's warrant.....	\$5768 61	
Received from state railroad tax	122 12	
“ “ Savings Bank tax.....	180 58	
“ “ Literary fund	59 22	
“ “ Insurance tax	7 50	
“ “ proportion of School fund	219 12	
“ “ sale of Apples.....	3 70	
“ “ “ standing grass...	29 50	
“ “ J. K. Mason, two bags cement	1 25	
Received from J. H. Smith, wood from pound	1 75	
Received from Individuals for trimming Browntail moths as per list	30 00	
Received from William C. Todd, Ceme- tery fund	3 00	
Received from Sarah E. Knight, Ceme- tery fund.....	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$6428 35

Town Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer charges himself with cash on hand

February 16, 1908.....	\$ 144 27
Received borrowed money.....	1000 00
" " " from state, railroad tax.....	122 12
" " " insurance tax.....	7 50
" " " savings bank tax.....	180 58
" " " literary fund.....	59 22
" " " proportion of school fund...	219 12
" " town clerk dog licenses.....	101 05
" " collector, taxes 1907.....	200 75
" " " " 1908.....	5330 75
" " " interest on taxes.....	9 36
" " Wm. C. Todd, cemetery fund.....	3 00
" " Sarah E. Knight, cemetery fund.	2 00
" " H. N. bank interest on deposits..	11 33
" " selectmen sale of personal property, and money collected for cutting off brown tail nests.....	66 20
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	\$7457 25

He credits himself as follows :

Paid selectmen's orders.....	\$6129 02
" school treasurer literary fund.....	59 22
" " " proportion of school fund.	219 12
" " " bal. dog licenses 1907.....	142 45
	<hr/>
	\$6549 81

Cash in hands of treasurer.....\$ 907 44

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Amount due from taxes, 1907.....	\$ 38 10
“ “ “ 1908.....	209 74
Cash in treasury.....	907 44
Amount due from library trustees.....	3 95
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	\$1159 23

LIABILITIES.

Due Verta A. Smith note.....	\$1000 00
Balance due memorial committee.....	15 85
“ “ selectmen. Todd fund.....	1 47
“ “ cemetery appropriation 1907.....	37 00
“ “ “ “ 1908.....	50 00
Amount due permanent road fund, 1908.....	\$ 446 00
“ “ highway department.....	261 07
	<hr/>
	\$1811 39
Balance against the town.....	\$ 652 16

GEORGE A. PAGE, Treasurer.

Collector's Report.

DR.

The amount in Selectmen's warrant for collection	
was	\$5768 61
Amount assessed later	8 58
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	\$5777 19

CR.

Receipts from Treasurer	\$5330 75
Discounts prior to Sept. 5, 1908.....	236 70
Uncollected taxes for 1908	209 74
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	\$5777 19

S. B. MASON, Collector.

Atkinson, N. H., Feb. 15, 1909.

Auditors' Report

The Auditors have examined and audited the reports of the Board of Selectmen, Collector of Taxes, Town Treasurer, Trustees of Public Library and Treasurer of School Board, and find these reports to be correctly computed and all payments properly vouched for.

CHAS. I. PRESSEY	} Auditors.
GEO. A. SAWYER	

Atkinson, Feb. 25, 1909.

Births Registered in the Town of Atkinson for the year ending December 31, 1908.

Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Sex and Condition				Name of Father	Maiden Name of Mother	Color of Parents	Res. of Parents	Occupation of Father	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother
		Male	Female	Liv. or Stillborn	No. of Child, 1st, 2nd, &c.							
Feb. 27	Atkinson					Alby	Alice May Akeley	White	Atkinson	Shoe cutter	Gloucester, Mass.	Manchester
Mar. 3		M	F		4th	William H. Alby	Laura M. Hollison			Teamster	Atkinson	Haverhill, Mass.
Mar. 16					6th	Fred E. Stevens	Edna E. Day			Foreman	Lawrence, Mass.	Kennebunk, Me.
Mar. 17					3rd	Lyman W. Cole	Nettie A. Welch			Milkman	Haverhill, Mass.	Haverhill, Mass.
June 7						George R. Freeman	Frances W. Jackson			Farmer	Atkinson	Middleboro, "
June 16						Elmer E. Conley	Mary E. Emerson			Carpenter		Hampstead
Aug. 7		M	F		4th	Harry L. Noyes	Maud B. Kimstead			Farmer	Newton	New Brunswick
Nov. 27		F	F		7th	Howard W. Hall	Florence A. Hall			Sawyer	Boston, Mass.	Derry
						Alonzo D. Kimball						

I hereby certify that the above return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

GEORGE A. PAGE, Town Clerk.

Marriages Registered in the Town of Atkinson for the year ending December 31, 1908.

Date of Marriage	Place of Marriage	Name and Surname of Groom and Bride	Res. of each at time of Marriage	Age of each in yrs.	Color of each	Occupation of Groom and Bride	Place of birth of each	Names of Parents	Birthplace of Parents	Occupation	Condition: whether single or wid. what mar'ge, 1st, 2nd, &c.	Name, Res. and Official Station of person by whom married
Sep. 22	Plaistow	Abner C. Akeley Alice Bailey	Atkinson, N. H. "	58 42	White	Decorator Housekeeper	Gilmanton, N. H. Bristol, Eng.	Isaiah Akeley Elizabeth Batchelder	Rumford, Me. Gilmanton, N. H.	Farmer Housewife Blacksmith Housewife	Wid. 2nd	A. de F. Palmer, Clergyman, Plaistow

I hereby certify that the above return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

GEORGE A. PAGE, Town Clerk.

Deaths Registered in the Town of Atkinson for the year ending December 31, 1908.

Date of Death	Place of Death	Name and Surname of the Deceased	Age	Place of Birth	Sex and Con.			Occupation	Place of Birth		Name of Father	Maiden Name of Mother	Disease or Cause of Death	Occupation of Father
					Male	Female	Single, Mar. or Widowed		Father	Mother				
Jan. 20	Atkinson	Harriett R. Witham	32	Greenville	F	F	Mar.	Housekeeper	New Ipswich	Marion	Geo. C. Robbins	Elena A. Hodgman	Epilepsy	Merchant
April 28	"	Robert Orr	40	Greenville	M	F	Mar.	Farmer	Scotland	Pottstown, Pa.	Robert Orr	Rebecca Clendinning	Apoplexy	Hotel Keeper
April 17	"	Sarah J. Knight	21	Boston, Mass.	F	F	Mar.	Housewife	England	Pottstown, Pa.	Benjamin Doughty	Sarah J. Doughty	Heart disease	Landlord
May 9	"	Eliza B. Dow	23	Pottstown, Pa.	F	F	Mar.	Housewife	England	Pottstown, Pa.	Samuel Bastress	Mary Spray	Apoplexy	Hotel

I hereby certify that the above return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

GEORGE A. PAGE, Town Clerk.

Report of School Board.

We are pleased to report that our schools are well organized and by a firmly established system, good grade work is being done. The average attendance, the largest we believe in the history of the town, and the long roll of honor are particularly gratifying.

Miss C. Thisbe Peck gave her services as janitor that money might be saved for the purpose of purchasing a flag for the Center school. Her wishes have been carried out and in behalf of the town we thank her for the patriotic gift.

Four graduates last June received their diplomas by which they were entitled to regular standing in the first year at the academy. Unfortunately one of these dropped out on account of his eyes. Next June barring accident, a class of six will be graduated from our grammar school into the academy. This will be a large class for a small town like ours and we believe that these circumstances have been brought about largely through the efforts of our superintendent. He has obtained from the State Department of Public Instruction, the privilege of entering our graduates from the common schools into the academy without examination, such action being taken without detriment to the standing of the academy as an approved high school in the state. This means that our grammar schools are recognized by the State Department of equal standing with those of other towns, a record of which we are proud and which we hope to maintain. This is not all our superintendent has done. He has regulated our school work according to the state program of studies and by it is trying to help those who are weak in some studies and bring them up to full standing in their grade,

thereby saving us the sad scene of a scholar in the eighth grade in reading and perhaps, the second in arithmetic. One will have to visit the schools, watch the work, and perhaps wait years to realize all the good that comes from a practical education. All of this our superintendent is trying to give our children.

Now some may ask why the chairman of the school board has changed his opinion on the superintendent question. We quote his own words: "At first I thought it more money than we could afford to pay at that time. I had the privilege of visiting Mr. Bartlett, superintendent of the Haverhill schools, who was extremely kind to me, and would help me all he could. I could buy what we needed from their assortment of school books or anything that he had at wholesale. The same was true when Mr. McKeen was superintendent, but when Mr. Holmes came, a change came also. Then for two years we relied on our judgment and that of the teachers, and I became convinced that it cost us more and we got poorer results than if we could have a superintendent. He has been with us nearly two years and has accomplished more than I expected. He will save us much in the purchase of books and supplies, will get the things we need and and those only, will see that they are properly used so that less will be destroyed and lost. I believe that the school board will be more willing to work without pay, with a superintendent as it has this year, than with any salary that the town could afford to pay without one."

H. N. SAWYER,	}	School Board.
H. I. NOYES,		
C. I. PRESSEY,		

PAID OUT AS FOLLOWS:

Teachers	\$1431 50
Miscellaneous.....	203 54
Tuitions.....	372 00
Jacob E. Wignot, Superintendent.....	275 00
Repairs	149 86
	—————\$2431 90

TEACHERS

C. Thisbe Peck	\$130 00
May E. Smith	18 00
Susie McLaughlin.....	20 00
Lucy J. Jacobs.....	70 00
Mrs. L. E. Marble, end of year 1907-8 ..	9 00
“ “	279 00
Laura E. Pinkham.....	274 50
Mabel Smith.....	274 50
Clara B. Harvey	85 00
F. E. Sawins.....	93 00
Elsie Conley.....	178 50
	—————\$1431 50

SUPERINTENDENT

Jacob E. Wignot	\$275 00
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ATKINSON ACADEMY

June 2, Tuitions.....	\$117 00
Oct. 7, “	130 00
Jan. 25, “	125 00
	————— \$372 00

REPAIRS

May 12, E. E. Peaslee.....	4 25	
Aug. 29, Goodrich & Cole, Painters.....	117 14	
Sept. 15, O. L. Whittaker	19 67	
25, G. H. Mason	2 00	
Harry I. Noyes.....	4 80	
Feb. 12, " "	50	
G. H. Mason	1 50	
	————	\$149 86

MISCELLANEOUS

May 12, Levi Carllouette.....	\$3 75
June 18, F. W. Greenough, Insurance.....	40 00
July 1, Oscar Tilton.....	1 50
Aug. 18, J. N. Goodrich, use of piano	1 00
Sept. 23, Harold Noyes, Janitor	2 75
Nov. 23, C. W. Haselton & Co.....	20 00
C. I. Pressey, Graduation Day expense.....	4 75
Dec. 12, Organ rent	12 00
Harold Noyes, Janitor.....	2 50
Jan. 11, J. Marin & Co., Coal	25 50
H. N. Sawyer, Wood.....	6 50
Jan 27, J. Marin & Co., Coal	8 50
H. N. Sawyer, Wood.....	6 00
Feb. 12, E. E. Conley, Wood	7 50
J. Marin & Co., Coal and kindlings	8 75
Alvin M. Whittaker, Janitor	8 66
J. S. Noyes, Wood	6 00
Daniel G. George, Expenses	1 00
H. I. Noyes, Broom and pail	60
C. I. Pressey, Spelling awards	4 00
David Chute, Wood	6 10
J. W. Stickney.....	2 12
Flags for Center school	2 88
15, Clifford A. Sawyer, janitor, '07 and '08..	7 50
H. N. Sawyer, Telephoning.....	1 80

TOWN REPORT		21
18, Julia Wheeler, cleaning school room.....		98
22, George A. Page, wood.....		3 00
William R. Brickett, sawing, and splitting wood.....		3 00
Programs		5 00
		<hr/>
		\$203 54

ROLL OF HONOR.

Pupils who have been neither absent nor tardy—

FOR THE YEAR.

Harold E. Noyes	James M. Noyes
Roland I. Noyes	C. Ruth Noyes
Harold E. Brickett	Benjamin E. Stevens
Margaret Wood	Charlie Cole

FOR TWO TERMS.

William R. Brickett	Eleanor Pressey
Blanche Cole	Gladys Lucy
Rose Sensual	Kathleen Wood

FOR ONE TERM.

Beatrice Alby	Ellen Alby
Ernest E. Kimball	Walter E. Kimball
Marion G. Wheeler	Charles Wheeler
Blanche Cole	Grace Cole
Pearl Grant	Gladys Lucy
Bernice Poor	Elgin Reynolds
Donald B. Stevens	Pearl E. Kimball
Blanche E. Brickett	Clifford A. Sawyer
Eva M. Cole	Ernestine H. Barnum
Polly E. Barnum	Maud E. Richards
Marjorie E. Thompson	Dorothy L. Thompson
Clarence C. Wheeler	Ward W. Wright
Edna M. Young	E. Frank Noyes
Joshua C. Noyes	Ellen P. Noyes

STATISTICS FOR YEAR SEPT. 1907 to AUG. 1, 1908

Number weeks in school year,.....	32 2-5
of different teachers employed.....	5
normal graduates teaching during year	0
teachers employed who are not, academy	
or high school graduates.....	0
Average wages of teachers per month.....	\$35.28
Total enrollment.....	79
Boys.....	38
Girls.....	41
Average membership for all schools together....	63.82
attendance " " 	56.99
absence " " ...	6.83
Pupils under five years of age.....	1
Pupils between five and sixteen years of age....	77
Number of cases of tardiness.....	146
pupils who attended high school whose	
tuition is paid by the town.....	0
pupils who attend academies whose tuition	
is paid by the town.....	16

SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer charges himself with

Cash on hand Feb 16, 1908.....\$	2 44
Received from town treasurer amount of school	
money	1830 00
Received from town treasurer	
Extra repair fund	149 00
State literary fund	59 22
Proportion of school fund.....	219 12
Bal. Dog licenses 1907.....	142 45
Walter Bridges, one stove....	3 00
Brickett tuition.....	26 00

 \$2431 23

He credits himself as follows :

Paid school orders 1908.....	\$2431 00
Balance due treasurer.....	67

GEORGE A. PAGE, Treasurer

Statistical Table of Schools.

Schools	Number One			Number Two			Number Three			Number Four			Number Five		
	Lucy J. Jacobs	Elsie Conley	"	Laura E. Pinkham	"	"	C. Thibbe Peck	Clara B. Harvey	Florence Sawins	Mrs. L. Eugene Marble	"	"	Mabel L. Smith	"	"
Terms	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter
Weeks	12	13	6	12	13	8	13	10	8	13	8	10	12	13	6
Pupils	12	14	15	6	11	8	22	20	17	16	14	14	11	10	10
Boys	7	7	7	4	4	4	7	7	7	6	4	4	8	7	7
Girls	5	7	8	2	7	4	15	13	10	10	10	10	3	3	3
Average Attendance	11.39	13	13.91	5.78	9.24	7.72	19.01	16.31	12.87	13.54	13.75	13.15	11.12	9.78	8.81
Average Absence	.38	.2	.85	.14	.30	.14	1.86	.98	3.1	.71	.25	.45	.21	.21	.35
Average Membership	12	13.2	14.76	5.92	9.54	7.86	20.8	17.29	15.97	14.15	14	13.60	11.33	9.99	9.16
Percent of Attendance	.94	.98	.94	.98	.96	.98	.91	.94	.80	.95	.99	.96		.97	.96
No. cases of Tardiness	5	16	0	0	8	6	3	.55	20	14	3	3	3	1	7
Visits by the Superint'd't	10	9	6	10	8	6	10	8	8	2	6	4	7	11	6
Visits by the School Board	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0
Visits by Parents & others	0	29	5	26	19	8	18	6	7	6	4	13	4	2	2
Wages of teacher per m'th	\$40.	\$4	\$34.	\$32.	\$34	\$34.	\$41.	\$42.	\$36	\$6	\$36.	\$36.	\$42.	\$31.	\$34.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the committee of the school district of the town of Atkinson, I have the honor to submit my second annual report:

THE SCHOOL WORK.

Looking at the work of this year as a whole, I believe substantial gains have been made. As planned in my last report, a teachers' meeting, including all teachers from Salem, Hudson and Atkinson, was held in the spring, at which every detail of the course of study was carefully considered and many changes made therein. Weak spots were found where revision was necessary in order that the best results might be obtained from every moment of the school year. The field of reading and arithmetic was most carefully covered.

No other subject in our curriculum approaches in importance that of reading, which is the basis of good work in all the others. By reading is meant "ability to obtain thought from the printed page." Some pupils do this in a halting, stumbling, fashion but yet more of the meaning than those who are able, glibly and smoothly, to merely pronounce words. I am convinced that, given a proper start, almost any child may become a good reader, and, given a poor start, no child will ever become a good reader, except in very rare cases. The first two years in the primary school usually settle the question of capable reading later in life. After a stock of words has been learned, *reading sentences as wholes* should be insisted upon all the time. Most of the teachers are doing this work well.

It was decided at our meeting to drop all so-called "readers" after the third year when books, each a complete piece should be given. A certain amount of time (three years in the course of study) is necessary to master the mechanics of reading, that is, "to learn *how* to read." Then, if proper material is not given the pupil approaches the reading lesson of as disagreeable

task, and so misses entirely the object of his efforts. The cause of this is justly laid at the door of our fourth and fifth readers. They are chopped up collections of pieces which ought to be given entire. Of course, one book could not do this without being too large for use. Hence, we are furnishing the children, after the third year, nothing but the best supplementary reading books of myths, ancient history, geography, nature stories, early pioneer and colonial life. English and United States history, and many works of our best literature. It costs more to do this but it pays.

From my observation and from the experience of the teachers, I believe the work in arithmetic should be narrowed to the essential topics. The State Program has this to say on the subject: "School boards are especially cautioned that good results in arithmetic are proportioned not to prolonged study of the subject, but rather to skillful teaching. The first six years of school life are ordinarily sufficient for all arithmetic needed, except for special service like banking; eight years are allowed." Nine years have been allowed in our schools until last year, when the time was cut down to eight and a half. The work can be done in eight years and well done, too, if the non essential parts are eliminated from the field. By non-essential topics, I mean compound proportion, cube root, complex fraction, foreign exchange, etc. Better results will be obtained by turning all our energy upon the four fundamental processes, common and decimal fractions, percentage, single entry book-keeping and mensuration, devoting eight years to this work and giving a whole year to algebra.

Several new language books have been introduced during the year which have yielded good results, especially with the younger and less experienced teachers. Technical grammar should be taught in the seventh and eighth grades and a whole year left for the study of Latin. Grammar is necessarily a dry subject and by the end of

the eighth year, I think the children have gleaned all they can out of the English text book. They have picked over the dry bones once or twice by this time and further effort in this line has proven disagreeable and unprofitable work. Let them approach the subject from the higher ground of Latin and many difficult principles become simple, appearing in a new light, interest is awakened in the work, and, by the end of the year, they have learned, not only technical English grammar but a good deal of the history and mechanism of the English Language as well.

In spelling, text books have been dropped in the lower grades and are used in the upper grades only when the work in the other studies has ceased to furnish words enough. The method of teaching spelling is carefully followed as outlined in the State Program of Studies.

In penmanship we are putting in the Morse copy books as fast as the supply of old books is exhausted. The new books possess striking advantages over any others in their presentation of the teaching of the muscular movement. Teachers and pupils are urged to persist in their efforts to secure an easy, flowing, graceful style of writing which can be attained only by constant practice in the muscular movement. Progress for the year has been encouraging.

The text-book work in geography is now begun in the fourth grade instead of in the fifth, and the course ends with the eighth year.

Intensive Study of United States history is taken up during the eight and ninth grades and the course as outlined in the Program of Studies for the seventh and eighth years, is followed.

I have written somewhat in detail upon the essential studies of our school work, because I believe it is of vital importance to every child in your town that the foundation of his education be wisely laid and I believe, also, parents are interested to know something of the methods by which their children are being educated.

EYESIGHT TEST

The vision of all pupils has been most carefully tested by the Snellen letter-cards. The object of this test was to discover unsuspected cases of defective eyesight and to co-operate with parents in the care of their children. It is only one step in an effort to improve the physical condition of many children whose mental and moral development is, no doubt, seriously impeded by defects of vision, hearing, teeth, breathing etc. "A healthy mind in a healthy body" is an old saying containing much truth, a small part of which we have, as yet, applied in a practical way.

The question of requiring children to be six years of age before becoming eligible to enter school is being favorably discussed and acted upon in many cities and towns. This would be a step in the right direction and would not only benefit the children physically and mentally, but also enable the teachers to approximate more closely the work laid down in the course of study.

CHANGES IN TEACHING FORCE.

The "East road" and "Centre" schools are the only ones where changes in teachers were made. At the "East Road" school, after the resignation of Miss May E. Smith Miss Susie McLaughlin substituted for two weeks, when Miss Lucy J. Jacobs took up the work for the remainder of the spring term. Miss Elsie Conley was elected in September as permanent teacher in this school. After the resignation of Miss C. Thisbe Peck, teacher of "Centre" school, was received, Miss Clara B. Harvey was elected to the position. Miss Harvey resigned in December and Miss Florence Sawin was elected in her place.

All the teachers have worked hard to make the year a successful one, and have contributed generously of their strength and talent to make our schools better,—and they have succeeded.

An excellent system of recording the books on hand at each school building, the number furnished each teacher

through the year, the number returned by each teacher, and the number on hand at the close of each year, has been installed. This will, no doubt, result in the saving of many dollars to the district, and will supply, by interchange, a larger stock of books to each school.

Statistics and tabular reports for the year ending August 1, 1908, follow.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. WIGNOT,

Superintendent.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library.

The Trustees of the Public Library make the following report for the year ending February 15, 1909 :

Number of new books added during the year.....	107
“ cards “ “ “	46

We have received some books and magazines from the Atkinson Reading Club and several from private individuals for which we extend many thanks. Have you any books that you have read and laid away, as of no further use to you? If so, pass them in, we would be very thankful for them.

GEORGE P. DOW,	} Trustees
S. W. LUFKIN,	

LIBRARY TREASURER'S REPORT.

Atkinson, N. H., Feb. 20, 1909.

The Library Treasurer charges himself with :

Cash on hand	\$	16	80
Received from town on account.....		50	00
“ “ “		30	00
		<hr/>	
		\$96	80

He credits himself as follows:

Paid Feb. 20, one gal. oil.....	14
June 17, express.....	65
June 18, De Wolfe, Fiske & Co.....	41 78
“ for wood.....	2 90
June 29, binding.....	7 42
Aug. 31, Miss Page for book.....	1 00
“ for lantern.....	2 75
Sept. 1, five window shades.....	1 25
January 21, 1909, De Wolfe, Fiske & Co....	34 22
Work on Library.....	1 00
Postage.....	30
May 23, 1908, express.....	50
Jan. 7, 1908, express.....	45
	<hr/>
	94 36

Balance in hand of Treasurer.....\$ 2 44

GEORGE P. DOW, Treasurer.

Catalogue of Books.

Added during the year ending Feb. 15, 1909.

Adventures of Daniel Ellis, by Daniel Ellis, presented
by Henry A. Kelley.

A

At Close Range..... F. Hopkinson Smith
Aunt Jane of Kentucky..... Eliza C. Hall
A Lost Leader..... E. P. Oppenheim
At the Sign of the Jack-o-Lantern..... Myrtle Reed
A Heroine of the Wilderness..... H. Butterworth
A Life in Song..... Geo. L. Raymond
Ann Boyd..... Will N. Harben
A Spinner in the Sun..... Myrtle Reed
Assistant to Family Religion..... Wm. Cogswell, D. D.

B

Brunhilde's Paying Guest..... Caroline Fuller
Brewster's Millions..... Geo. B. McCutcheon
Border Fights and Fighters..... Cyrus F. Brady
Ballads and Other Poems..... Geo. L. Raymond
By Wit of Woman..... A. W. Marchmont
Bud..... Neil Munroe

C

Capital Stories of Americans..... Rev. Louis A. Banks
Checkers..... H. M. Blossom, Jr.
Camping and Tramping with Roosevelt. John Burroughs
Cadet Standish of the St. Louis..... Wm. Drysdale
Century Magazine, 4 vols.
Cy Whittaker's Place..... Joseph C. Lincoln

D

Delightful English Towns..... W. D. Howells
Doc Gordon..... Mary E. W. Freeman
Dianna of Dobson's..... Cecily Hamilton

F

Five Little Peppers Grown Up.....Margaret Sidney
 Famous Stories Every Child Should Know, H. W. Mabie
 Fair MargaretF. Marion Crawford

H

Helen Grant in College.....Amanda Douglas
 Helen Grant, Senior.....Amanda Douglas
 Hans Binker.....Mary Mapes Dodge
 Harper's Magazine.....2 Vols.....
 Heros, every child should know.....H. W. Mabie
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.....T. W. Higginson
 Holland.....Esther Singleton
 Half a Rogue.....Harold MacGrath

I

In Alaskan Waters.....W. Bert Foster
 In the Arena.....Booth Tarkington
 In the Name of a Woman.....A. W. Marchmont

L

Life of Alice Freeman Palmer.....Geo H. Palmer
 Lavender and Old Lace.....Myrtle Reed

M

Mrs. Tree's Will.....Laura E. Richards
 Mam' Linda.....Will N. Harben
 Mr. Pratt.....Joseph C. Lincoln

N

Nedra.....Geo. B. McCutcheon
 Nancy Stair.....Eleanor M. Lane

O

Off Santiago With Sampson.....James Otis

P

ParisMortimer Mompes
 Phantom Wires.....Arthur Stringer
 Panama and the Canal.....C. H. Forbes

The Third Degree.....	Chas. R. Jackson
The Panther.....	Annie Warner
The President.....	Alfred H. Lewis
The Captain of the Kansas.....	Louis Tracy
The Battle of the Bears.....	E. R. Young
The King of Diamonds.....	Louis Tracy
The Red City.....	S. Weir Mitchell
The Distractions of Martha.....	Marion Harland
Together.....	Robert Herrick
The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come.....	John Fox, Jr.
The Under Dog.....	F. Hopkinson Smith
The Aztec God.....	Geo. L. Raymond
The Circle.....	Katherine C. Thurston

U

Under The Crust.....	Thomas N. Page
Useful Birds.....	Edward H. Forbush

W

With The Flag At Sea.....	Walter Wood
Working With The Hands.....	Booker T. Washington
When Grandmamma Was New.....	Marion Harland
Walled In.....	Elizabeth S. Phelps

New Hampshire State Library



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